

# Yarnell-Prescott Response

Granite Mountain Memorial

# Yarnell-Prescott Response

## Granite Mountain Memorial

- 19 Firefighters perished while fighting the Yarnell Fire.
- This presentation is not about the communications during the Yarnell Fire.
- This presentation will discuss the communications issues surrounding the post fire memorial services and support of the Prescott Community.

# Yarnell-Prescott Response

## Granite Mountain Memorial

- Saturday- July 6
  - Procession Planning for drive to Prescott
    - Convoy length. 20 Hearses, Law Enforcement, Fire, Support
    - Route: Interstate 17 North
    - Agencies: Arizona DPS, Phoenix Fire, Phoenix PD, Phoenix PD Air Support Unit, DPS Ranger 41, Prescott Units?
    - Interoperability Issues:
      - DPS UHF
      - Phoenix PD 700/800
      - Phoenix Fire 700/800/VHF
      - Prescott PD VHF
    - Plan: use AIRS for Convoy to Prescott

# Yarnell-Prescott Response

## Granite Mountain Memorial

- Sunday- July 7
  - Procession Route to Prescott
    - Route: Carefree Highway through Yarnell
    - Agencies: Arizona DPS, Phoenix Fire, Phoenix PD, Phoenix PD Air Support Unit, DPS Ranger 41, Prescott Units?
    - Interoperability Issues:
      - DPS UHF
      - Phoenix PD 700/800
      - Phoenix Fire 700/800/VHF
      - Prescott PD VHF
      - Motor Officers cannot use 2 radios.
      - AIRS does not cover this route
    - Plan: Phoenix Fire Communications Suburban
      - Mobile Patch/Gateway
      - Mobile Repeater for Convoy Coverage
      - SatCom long range Comms

# Yarnell-Prescott Response

## Granite Mountain Memorial

- Convoy Communications Requirements
  - End to End Communications
    - Accountability
    - Breakdowns/Logistical Support
    - Mobile Repeater
  - Mobile Patch for Motor Officers
    - Provides intra-convoy communications for disparate radio systems.
  - Long Range Communications
    - Phoenix Fire Dispatch
    - Phoenix PD Dispatch
    - Prescott Valley/Prescott Dispatch

# Yarnell-Prescott Response

## Granite Mountain Memorial

- Communications-Operations Coordination
  - Motor Officers-Escort
    - DPS, Prescott Valley PD, Phoenix PD
    - Knowledge of Interoperability Channels
    - Naming Conventions
    - Officers previous experience
  - Convoy IC
    - Placement of Communications Vehicle in Convoy

# Yarnell-Prescott Response

## Granite Mountain Memorial

- Convoy Communications Plan
  - Prescott Valley PD-VTAC
  - Phoenix PD-8TAC
  - DPS-UTAC
  - Phoenix Fire-State Fire Mutual Aid/V-Fire 21
- All Patched during the convoy. Use of VTAC, 8TAC and UTAC allowed motors to communicate. Phoenix Fire was on State Fire Mutual Aid/V-Fire 21 to allow Prescott Fire to monitor after topping Yarnell Hill.

# Yarnell-Prescott Response

## Granite Mountain Memorial

- On Arrival
  - IMT in place for Memorial Support
    - All Hazard?
    - NIFC (National Interagency Fire Center)
  - Local Contacts
    - TICP
      - Cache Radios
      - Interoperability Plans/Systems
    - Dispatch Centers
  - Communications Plan
    - Who are the players?
      - Radios?
      - What bands?
    - Coverage requirements?



# Yarnell-Prescott Response

## Granite Mountain Memorial

### – Local Contacts

- TICP

- Cache Radios- NONE AVAILABLE

- Interoperability Plans/Systems- AIRS POOR COVERAGE & DID NOT COVER ENTIRE AREA, Phoenix RWC High Site Coverage

- Dispatch Centers- Coordinating points

### – Communications Plan

- Who are the players? Over 100 agencies sent resources.

- Radios? All Brands

- What bands? All Bands

- Coverage requirements? Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley and ??

# Yarnell-Prescott Response

## Granite Mountain Memorial

- Memorial Service Support
  - Over 100 agencies sent resources to assist the Prescott/Prescott Valley Community. They all brought their home agency radio.
  - Identify Commonalities
    - Interoperability Frequencies
    - Field Personnel

# Yarnell-Prescott Response

## Granite Mountain Memorial

- Use Command Structures to your advantage:
  - Division Supervisors may carry 2 radios
    - Command radio
    - Division radio
  - Pair with local
    - Provides access to local radio system
      - Coverage
      - Command

# Yarnell-Prescott Response

## Granite Mountain Memorial

- Law Enforcement
  - Most wide range of radios
  - Operations
    - Agencies assigned a tactical objective.
      - Agencies given a channel for use in achieving tactical objective.
      - Paired with a local on the local radio system

# Yarnell-Prescott Response

## Granite Mountain Memorial

- Fire
  - Use of a Prescott channel for Command Ops
  - Backfill of Prescott/Prescott Valley Fire Stations
    - Prescott/Prescott Valley on VHF
      - Most Fire Departments are on VHF
      - 50 cache radios from Phoenix Fire
        - » Tech Support
      - State Fire Mutual Aid/V-Fire 21
        - » Common
        - » Staging

# Yarnell-Prescott Response

## Granite Mountain Memorial

- Back Up Plans
  - Areas of with poor or no radio coverage
  - Cell Phone use
  - Equipment Failure
    - Fire 4
- Use of Communications Suburban
  - Sat Comm Relay
    - Tactical Comm on-site
  - Satellite Phone Systems
  - Data Systems-Internet
    - Weather
  - Video Streaming

# Yarnell-Prescott Response

## Granite Mountain Memorial

- During the week service and transport arrangements were carried out for the 19 fallen.
- Communications Unit
  - Knowledge, Skills and Abilities
  - Local
  - Impact of the event

# Yarnell-Prescott Response

## Granite Mountain Memorial

- FF Misner
  - Transported to Santa Barbara, California
    - Wife driving P/U
    - Pregnant
    - US Forest Service Escort
  - Notifications
    - AZ DPS
    - CHP
  - Communications
    - Prescott (Accountability/Support)
    - DPS/CHP
    - Sat Comm/Sat Phone



# Yarnell-Prescott Response

## Granite Mountain Memorial

### Closing Points

- Communications Unit
  - Training
  - Equipment
  - Relationships
- AIRS
  - Coverage
  - Capacity
- National Interoperability Channels
  - Training
  - Field Personnel
- Statewide Communications System
  - Interoperability
  - Capacity
  - Coverage Footprint

# Yarnell-Prescott Response

Granite Mountain Memorial

Questions?